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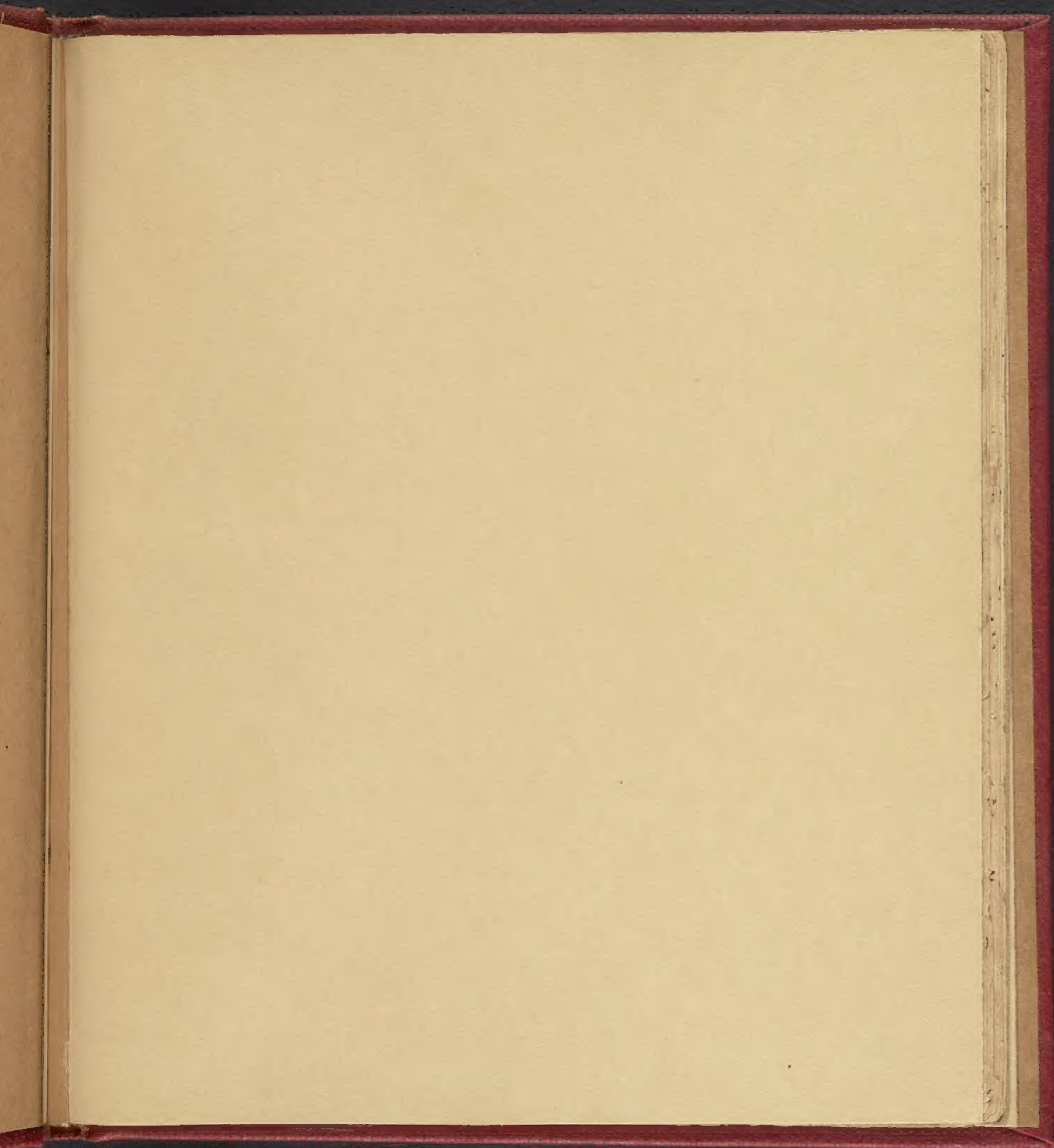


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Item 8

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Valedictory
oration delivered by
Philip Syng Physick
1785

Found
among some papers
of

Mrs Bowne
Relict of Wm Bowne M.D.

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To you Ladies & Gentlemen, whose minds
are fraught with Liberality, and whose
Bosoms glow with every generous Thought,
to you, Apologies must be disgusting. —

My first Appearance on so public an
Occasion, added to the Inexperience of Youth,
will, I make no doubt, sufficiently excuse
me, for this humble Attempt, even in the
Opinion of those who are disposed to censure
rather than applaud. —

Human Nature

ever pleased with Novelty, and fond of roving
in the Fields of Imagination, is enraptured
with the Sallies of Fancy, and views with
Ecstasy

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Ecstasy, the visionary Scenes of Romance. —
Wild & extravagant Notions, which draw
the Mind from Reality; and place it
in the Pursuit of golden Dreams and
ideal Happiness, afford unspeakable
Delight, & are perfectly adapted to the Feel-
ings of the Heart — May I be pardoned
for departing from ^{that} agreeable Path and
for selecting a Subject, suited to the well-
cultivated Genius of this Assembly, and to
the mild Spirit of Pennsylvanians —
— Asia is no longer the Residence of
Science, no longer the Habitation of
Greatness, but is become the Nur-
ture of Despots, and the Nurse of Slaves —

"Her cloud-capt Towers, her gorgeous Palaces,
 "Her solemn Temples; all have disappeared;
 "And like the baseless Fabric of a Vision,
 "Left not a Wreck behind" —

Europe is rapidly advancing to the
 same dreadful Situation; while this
 Country is opening a Mother's Arms, to
 receive the Sons of Virtue, Liberty, and the
 Arts. — Justice, Hospitality, and all the
 moral, & political Excellencies, are here
 exhibited in their native Splendor. We
 have been, & still are, great in Virtue's
 Cause; we have shewn to the World an
 unequalled Degree of Fortitude; we have
 baffled the cruel Efforts of Tyranny; and

we have taught ^{it} Mankind to believe, that
the Yoke of Slavery, was never intended for
an American - A salubrious Climate, a
rich & fertile Soil; watered throughout
with beautiful meandering Streams, on
which the barks of Luxury have never
appeared, are Advantages peculiar to this
Western World - Even the delicate Air,
contribute not a little, to increase our Re-
nown as a Nation - Following the
Examples of the Daughters of Carthage in
their glorious patriotic Exertions; who,
at a Time, when their Country was
invaded by a barbarous Enemy, and
robbed of its internal Strength by the

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cruel Hand of Treachery, presented their
Rings, Jewels, & Diamonds to the Public; &
cut off their Hair to make Ropes for the
Warlike Machines; nay they even turned
out, Sword in Hand, & courageously op-
posed the Foes to their Liberty. — Can there
be found in the Annals of Man, a more
celebrated Instance of Patriotism? Answer
me; ye who are daily endeavouring to
depreciate the Merit of the Fair, can you
with all your much-talked of advanta-
ges, boast of a Deed like this —
(to the Ladies)

Happy three happy Hour, when the
Courtinances of your most inveterate
Enemies declare, that you bear the Palm
in

in History — You⁶ Ladies of the present
Day, far excel in every Virtue, the memo-
rable Heroesses of Antiquity — Your
Beneficence is not confined to the Walls of
one City, or to the Happiness of one Commu-
nity, but is spread abroad as the salutary
Beams of yonder Luminary to benefit
Mankind universally. — Kindling the
Spark of Philosophy, which has long been
covered by the late glorious Contest; you
reject with Contempt, the trivial Amuse-
ments of the dancing Room, and pry into
the Beauties of Nature — To the Study
of Philosophy, your Researches will not be
confined; the Doors of Science will every

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where expand themselves, and when fatigued
with travelling in the tedious Road of In-
vestigation, you may retire to the Temple
of Poesy; or sweetly repose in the downy
Lap of Eloquence. The Power of Persua-
sion you possess in a far greater Degree
than the Male-Sex, your Features are
replete with Softness; your Eyes send forth
a vivid, piercing Flame, which would
melt the savage Heart of Barbarity, &
your Expressions are always suited to the
Ideas you would wish to convey. O suffer
me for a moment to look forward, and view
the future Grandeur of this infant Republic,
a Grandeur, for which she is principally
indebted to female Perseverance in the

Pursuit of ⁴⁸ Knowledge; a Grandeur which
might justly entitle her to be stiled the
Criterion of Refinement. — The Gentle-
men ever anxious of gaining your Appro-
bation, will apply themselves with unri-
valed Assiduity to the Cultivation of
the Mind, the Man of Letters will be
adored, the Fop & the Fribble once courted
will be despised, and the Days of Beauty
will gild the Laurels of the Learned. —

Thus will these States to Knowledge and ~~the~~ ^{the} Virtue,
To Wisdom's Children, kind Protection yield,
Thus will our Females, with their Smiles, reward
the Noble Efforts of Improvement's Sons.

The Wreaths of Merit shall their Brows adorn,

And never fading Honors deck their Names,
Whose chief Endeavour's, literature, to spread,
To fill the Mind with Wisdom's real Charms,
And render them, the Objects of the World.
Riches in true may please the niggard soul,
And sweet Contentment for a Moment give
But to a Being that, for Years, exists,
The only Pleasure, Learning can afford.

Long might I dwell upon this pleasing
Theme but the voice of Duty calls for a Conclusion.
My Trustees —

Much as we at a Loss, how to express the
grateful Emotions of our Hearts — Young
in Knowledge; young in Years; and con-
sequently young in Experience, we can-
not.

cannot make you that warm Return, which
your kind, patronizing, Care demands, -

Our Thanks, our Prayers, nay all that we
possess are yours, and if ⁱⁿ any future Day
we should be called upon to fill a Seat in
Government, or to occupy any Post of
Honour, it will only serve to remind
us of our Obligation to you. - If the
Pleasures which the Mind receives, are ade-
quate to the Services it renders to the World,
how immensely great must be those which
you feel, upon seeing the Sons of this Semina-
ry, which is covered by the Shield of your
Protection, & mine for the like as many

~~Do not~~ ^{Do not} To enlighten the human Race.

Long may you experience such generous
 joys; long may this Institution be blessed
 with your prudent Direction, and long
 may you live in the Enjoyment of per-
 fect Happiness — These are the Wishes
 of your Fellow Students, whose Sentiments of
 Respect, blended with Gratitude, believe
 me, are expressed, when I bid you a sin-
 cere Farewell —

Very Professors

To you, Gentlemen of the Faculty, we
 consider ourselves bound by the strongest

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Triumph of Gratitude and Affection. — Con-
ducted from Infancy ^{the bosom of} to Manhood by your
undiminished Attention; fed by your
indulgent Hands, with the healthful
Sprouts of Science, we cannot but view
you in the sacred Light, of Parents, Be-
nefactors and Friend — Young & Fellow
Citizens look up to you as a Source of
future Glory; they have entrusted you
with the Blossoms of Pennsylvania,
their darling Children; and expect from
your Precepts, they will become useful
Members of Society. — Tho' Pomp
and Grandeur may attract The Veneration

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the gaping Multitude; yet the Man
who shines in Learning's bright attire;
who instructs the youthful Mind, who
dispels the Cloud of Ignorance, in which
human Nature is enveloped, far exceeds
in the Estimation of the discerning Philoso-
pher, the splendid Monarch, with his glit-
tering Train — But why should we
attempt to enumerate any of the Benefits
which flow from your Instructions —
Mankind are and ever will be convinced,
that Literary Institutions, are productive
of the greatest Advantages — We in a
particular Manner have experienced their

their happy Influence; since for our Plea-
 sures, our Knowledge, and our Expectations;
 we are indebted to you. The Principles
 which you have inculcated, must be the
 foundation, on which the Fabric of our
 Actions will be built - Can we make
 you a better Return, for these kind Don-
 ments of Favors, than an Acknowledg-
 ment of our immense Obligation - We
 hope fervently hope, that you may never
 stand in need of our feeble Assistance, but
 should it so happen in the Order of Provi-
 dence; we will readily shew to the world
 that the Flame of Gratitude, which

And so the sorrow that should be undig'd.
 If Heaven had granted to my humble tongue,
 A power to express the Feelings of my Heart,
 Such Feelings as the Deaths of those produce,
 To whom I'm bound by all the endearing Ties
 Of Intimacy, Gratitude, & Love;
 Then might tell you what I have endured
 That Clouds of anguish bursted on my Head.
 To us alone, the loss is not confined;
 This literary Mansion feels the stroke;
 The Twig of Eloquence must droop & die -
 Not Tully's Language, not a Milton's Fire,
 Not Pope's soft Numbers, not a Breckford's tongue
 Nor even fair Sublimity herself
 Could do full Justice to the Name of Gamble.

Our dear Instructors, Words can not convey,
 what we at present feel - The Moment
 of our Separation is not far distant; it rapidly
 approaches, and accelerates the sad, the
 solemn Farewell -

Senior Junior Class

Young Gentlemen -

Might not the world
 justly impeach us of a Violation of the sacred
 Laws of Friendship, were we ^{to} leave this
 Nursery of Genius, without bidding Adieu
 to our intended Successors - Be not allured
 from the Path of Study, by the deceitful
 Bait

Vices of the Age, but remember you are
 sowing the Seeds of those Characters, who
 will distinguish you on the grand Stage
 of Life — The craggy barren Parts of a
 classical Education, you have already
 passed, and are about entering into a de-
 lightful Garden, covered with Ten Thousand
 Beauties — One Step more, and you will
 reach the Summit of academical In-
 struction; then the Opportunity, the
 golden Opportunity, will be gone forever.
 Embrace it, my Friends, it will not
 only afford you immediate Pleasure,
 but in the cool reflecting Hours of Manhood,

you will reap an ample Crop of Satisfaction.

- Many are daily looking back with regret at their not having accepted of that inestimable Jewel that was offered them by the Guardians of their Youth - Our Hearts are filled with Benevolence to you and that "Peace Health & Competence" may ever accompany you, is the most fervent Wish of those who are compelled to bid

you Farewell

To the Graduates

The farther I proceed, the more Difficulties I have to encounter - The Thought of past Pleasure, and the Prospect of a different Scene

Scene conspire to congeal those Stream
 of Joy, which spring from Nature in
 the human Mind — 'Tis hard that
 we Follow. Casemates, Companions, and
 Friends; whose Souls are melted into
 one, whose spring of action is the
 Good of all, who have travelled toge-
 ther through this Edifice of Science;
 should be torn from each other, from
 every thing that is sacred and precious,
 should be wrested by the iron Hand of
 Necessity, from the Arms of our Alma
 Mater, and from the Council of our
 experienced Instructors. — Resolution

Lend us all thy Aid; it is too much for
 weak Humanity to undergo — The
 Sun, that Beauty of the Day, before he
 reach the Western Arch of Heaven,
 shall behold us separated; separated per-
 haps forever — One may wander through
 the Plains of America; One may rest
 contented at his native Home, while
 another is wafted on the Billows of the
 Ocean, in quest of Europe's much frequen-
 ted Shores — The Sings of Sorrow, which
 this cruel Parting Moment, raised in
 my Breast, force me to lament the
 Time, we met together in the Dome
 of Knowledge — Had I been born

under some humble Peasants Roof, or
 doomed to cultivate the Fields of Nature
 I then had been, a happy Stranger to this
 melancholy Hour. But what can this
 effect - Our Separation is decreed - Let
 us then endeavor to remove its melting
 Horror, by plunging into the Waters of Re-
 signation - Farewell then my dearest
 Friends farewell - The Scene is ended
 But Oh! - Suffer me before we part,
 before we take our final Leave, to show
 another Token of my Friendships -
 Give me your Hand - May the
 Clouds of Misfortune be driven far-

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distant from your friendly Dwellings,
may the Planets of Contentment always
enlighten your Path & may the Sun of
Happiness, in his Meridian Lustre,
forever gild you with his heavenly Rays.

— Alas! — methinks I see the Curtain falling
to divide us — it sighs forth the
bitter Farewell —

By ^e Audience
Ladies & Gentlemen. —

We are sensible that a
Debt of Gratitude, still remains undischar-
ged — The Candor & Indulgence with
which

24.
which you have heard the Exercises of
the Days will be a Monument on which
shall be represented Patriotism and
Generosity rewarding with smiling
approbation, the weak attempts of
Youth to merit Virtue's Praise — They
who after us shall tread this Stage, will
be raised on the Simony of Expectation
while the candid Stranger must applaud
the elections which have distinguished you
upon this and similar Occasions —

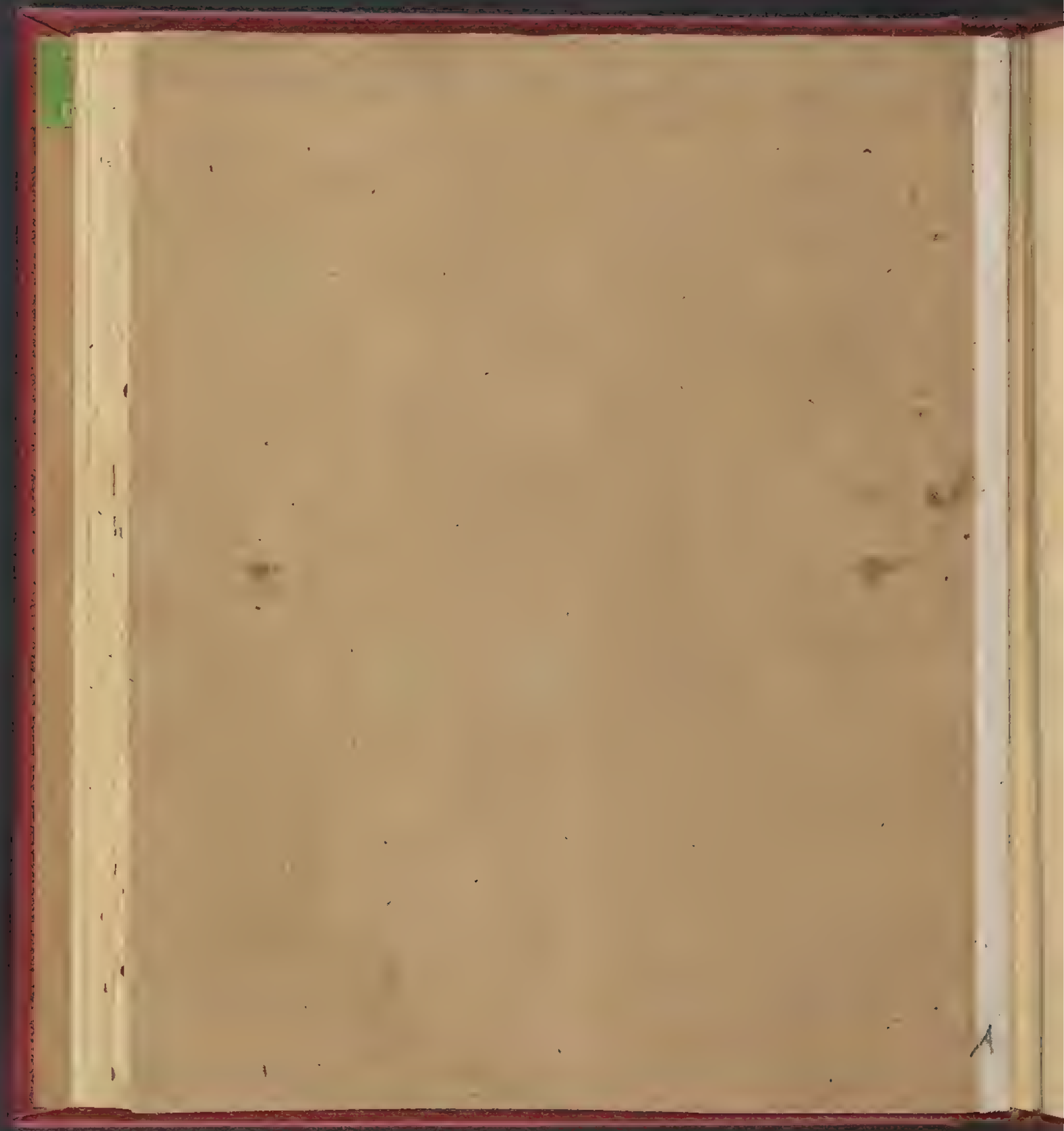
Benjamin Franklin

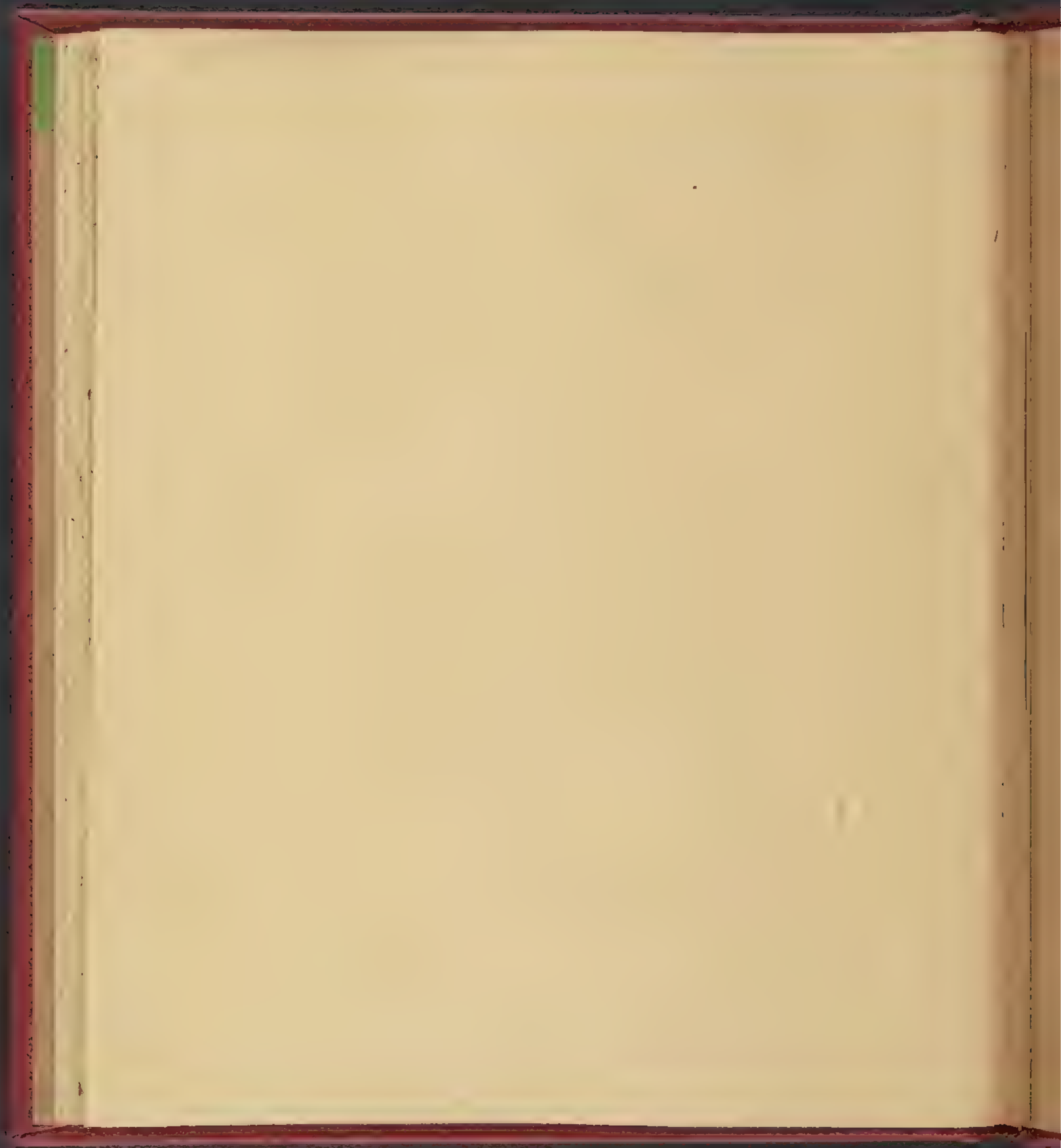
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Benjamin Franklin

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VALLÉDICTORY ORATION . PHILIP SYNG PHYSICK





